

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A billiard cue having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said cue comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a grip located on the proximal portion of said cue,

\_\_\_\_\_ a tip suitable for striking a billiard ball located on a distal end of said distal portion of said cue, and

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein said distal portion comprises up to half of the length of said billiard cue and comprises substantially more than half of the weight of said billiard cue and as claimed in claim 15, wherein a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 10% over the length of the cue.

17. (Currently amended) A billiard cue as claimed in claim ~~15~~16, wherein a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 5% over the length of the cue.

18. (Currently amended) A billiard cue as claimed in claim ~~15~~16, wherein the diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 2% over the length of the cue.

19. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 16, wherein the distal portion of said billiard cue comprises from 25-50% of the total length of said billiard cue, and the proximal portion comprises the remaining length of said billiard cue.

20. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 19, wherein the distal portion of said billiard cue has a weight which is about 60-80% of the total weight of said billiard cue.

21. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 19, wherein the billiard cue comprises three sections which are releasably attachable to one another, and at least one of said three sections is located in said distal portion of said cue and has a substantially greater density than another of said three sections.

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22. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 21, wherein one of said three sections forms the entire distal portion of said cue.

23. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 22, wherein the tip is releasably attachable to the distal end of said cue.

24. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 23, wherein the tip comprises a surface for striking a billiard ball, and an elastomeric material attached to said surface, said elastomeric material being sized to fit snugly over the distal end of said billiard cue to releasably secure said tip to the distal end of said billiard cue.

25. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein the surface of said tip is made from liquid steel.

26. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein the surface of said tip is made from neoprene.

27. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein said grip comprises a tubular elastomeric material which can be stretched and slipped over the proximal end of the proximal portion of said cue.

28-30. (Canceled)